



NEWS RELEASE

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VIRGINIA'S PRODUCERS EXPECT LOW YIELDS IN 2010

Based on conditions as of October 1, Virginia's corn yields are forecast to average 56 bushels per acre, down 75 bushels per acre from last year. If realized, production would be 17.9 million bushels down 59 percent from 2009. Producers expect to harvest 320,000 acres for grain this year.

Virginia's soybean yields are expected to be 24 bushels per acre which is 13 bushels per acre less than last year. Production is estimated at 13.2 million bushels, down 37 percent from 2009. Harvested acres are at 550,000, down 20,000 acres from last year.

Alfalfa hay production is expected to be down 17 percent from last year to 225,000 tons. Alfalfa yield is expected to average 2.50 tons per acre, .50 of a ton per acre less than in 2009. The forecasted yield for other hay is 1.80 tons per acre. Other hay production is forecast at 2.16 million tons, down 10 percent from 2009.

Cotton producers currently expect to harvest 82,000 acres with an average yield of 673 pounds per acre. Production is expected to total 115,000 bales, down 17 percent from last year.

Burley tobacco producers expect an average yield of 1,800 pounds per acre from 1,600 acres. Production is forecast at 2.88 million pounds, down 1.4 million pounds from last year.

Flue-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2,350 pounds per acre, up 10 pounds from 2009. Production is estimated to be 41.1 million pounds, up slightly from last year.

Fire-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 1,950 pounds per acre, down 50 pounds from the 2009 estimate. If realized, production would total 1.37 million pounds, up 5 percent from last year.

The forecasted peanut yield of 2,000 pounds per acre is down 1,700 pounds per acre from 2009. Production is forecast at 36.0 million pounds, down 19 percent from last year. As of October 4, harvesting activities had begun with 6 percent of the crop combined.

Apple production in Virginia is forecast at 225 million pounds, down 20 million pounds from last year. As of October 4, fall and winter apple harvest in Virginia was 60 percent completed.

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Corn Production Down 4 Percent from September Forecast
Soybean Production Down 2 Percent
Cotton Production Up Fractionally

U.S. corn production is forecast at 12.7 billion bushels, down 4 percent from the September forecast and down 3 percent from last year's record production of 13.1 billion bushels. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 155.8 bushels per acre, down 6.7 bushels from the previous month and 8.9 bushels below last year's record of 164.7 bushels. Forecasted yields decreased from last month throughout much of the Corn Belt and Tennessee Valley. Illinois showed the largest decline, down 14 bushels per acre. Indiana and Iowa are both down 10 bushels from the previous month, while Missouri and Nebraska declined 9 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.3 million acres, up less than 1 percent from the September forecast. Acreage updates were made in several States based on administrative data.

U.S. soybean production is forecast at a record high 3.41 billion bushels, down 2 percent from September but 1 percent above last year. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 44.4 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from last month but up 0.4 bushel from last year. Compared with last month, yields are forecast lower or unchanged in all major-producing States except Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, New York, and Wisconsin. The largest decreases in yield from last month are expected in North Carolina and Virginia, down 5 and 4 bushels, respectively. If realized, the forecasted yields in Illinois, Louisiana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, and Wisconsin will be record highs and the forecasted yield in Minnesota will tie the previous record high. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 76.8 million acres, down 1 percent from the previous estimate but up 1 percent from 2009. Acreage updates were made in several States based on administrative data.

All cotton production is forecast at 18.9 million 480-pound bales, up slightly from last month and up 55 percent from last year's 12.2 million bales. Yield is expected to average 841 pounds per harvested acre, up 64 pounds from last year. Upland cotton production is forecast at 18.4 million 480-pound bales, up fractionally from last month and 56 percent above 2009. Producers in Texas and the Delta region are expecting increased yields from last month while producers in the Southeastern region are expecting reduced yields. American Pima production, forecast at 497,800 bales, was carried forward from last month.

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